FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT - 1

Filed 04/29/24 Page 1 of 9 Page ID

Case 2:24-cv-02422-PA-MAR Document 16

<u>PARTIES</u>

- 1. Plaintiff is a California resident with a physical disability. Plaintiff is diagnosed with complete paraplegia due to spinal cord injury and is substantially limited in his ability to walk. Plaintiff requires the use of a wheelchair at all times when traveling in public.
- 2. Defendants are, or were at the time of the incident, the real property owners, business operators, lessors and/or lessees of the real property for a home goods store ("Business") located at or about 2945 Tweedy Blvd, South Gate, California.
- 3. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise of Defendant DOES 1 through 10, and each of them, are unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave of Court to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and, based thereon, alleges that each such fictitiously named Defendants are responsible in some manner, and therefore, liable to Plaintiff for the acts herein alleged.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times, each of the Defendants was the agent, employee, or alter-ego of each of the other Defendants, and/or was acting in concert with each of the other Defendants, and in doing the things alleged herein was acting with the knowledge and consent of the other Defendants and within the course and scope of such agency or employment relationship.
- 5. Whenever and wherever reference is made in this Complaint to any act or failure to act by a defendant or Defendants, such allegations and references shall also be deemed to mean the acts and failures to act of each Defendant acting individually, jointly and severally.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. The Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 USC §§ 1331 and 1343 for violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, (42 USC §12101, *et seq.*).
 - 7. Plaintiff's claims are authorized by 28 USC §§ 2201 and 2202.
- 8. Venue is proper in this court pursuant to 28 USC §1391(b). The real property which is the subject of this action is located in this district, Los Angeles County, California, and that all actions complained of herein take place in this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 9. In or about December of 2023, Plaintiff went to the Business.
- 10. The Business is a home goods store business establishment, open to the public, and is a place of public accommodation that affects commerce through its operation. Defendants provide parking spaces for customers.
- 11. While attempting to enter the Business during each visit, Plaintiff personally encountered a number of barriers that interfered with his ability to use and enjoy the goods, services, privileges, and accommodations offered at the Business.
- 12. To the extent of Plaintiff's personal knowledge, the barriers at the Business included, but were not limited to, the following:
 - a. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to provide any parking space designated for persons with disabilities.
 - b. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to provide the parking space identification sign with the International Symbol of Accessibility.
 - c. Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants

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- failed to post required signage such as "Van Accessible," "Minimum Fine \$250" and "Unauthorized Parking."
- Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for d. the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to provide proper van accessible space designated for the persons with disabilities.
- Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for e. the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to paint the ground as required.
- Defendants failed to comply with the federal and state standards for f. the parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants failed to mark the space with the International Symbol of Accessibility.
- These barriers and conditions denied Plaintiff full and equal access to the 13. Business and caused Plaintiff difficulty and frustration. Plaintiff wishes to return and patronize the Business; however, Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Business because his knowledge of these violations prevents him from returning until the barriers are removed.
- 14. Based on the violations, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that there are additional barriers to accessibility at the Business after further site inspection. Plaintiff seeks to have all barriers related to his disability remedied. See Doran v. 7-Eleven, Inc. 524 F.3d 1034 (9th Cir. 2008).
- In addition, Plaintiff alleges, on information and belief, that Defendants 15. knew that particular barriers render the Business inaccessible, violate state and federal law, and interfere with access for the physically disabled.
- 16. At all relevant times, Defendants had and still have control and dominion over the conditions at this location and had and still have the financial resources to remove these barriers without much difficulty or expenses to make the Business

accessible to the physically disabled in compliance with ADDAG and Title 24 regulations. Defendants have not removed such barriers and have not modified the Business to conform to accessibility regulations.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

- 17. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each of the allegations in all prior paragraphs in this complaint.
- 18. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), no individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases, or leases to, or operates a place of public accommodation. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a).
 - 19. Discrimination, inter alia, includes:
 - a. A failure to make reasonable modification in policies, practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, unless the entity can demonstrate that making such modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii).
 - b. A failure to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the entity can demonstrate that taking such steps would fundamentally alter the nature of the good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation being offered or would result in an undue burden. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iii).

- c. A failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication barriers that are structural in nature, in existing facilities, and transportation barriers in existing vehicles and rail passenger cars used by an establishment for transporting individuals (not including barriers that can only be removed through the retrofitting of vehicles or rail passenger cars by the installation of a hydraulic or other lift), where such removal is readily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).
- d. A failure to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs or to ensure that, to the maximum extent feasible, the path of travel to the altered area and the bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area, are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities where such alterations to the path or travel or the bathrooms, telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area are not disproportionate to the overall alterations in terms of cost and scope. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2).
- 20. Where parking spaces are provided, accessible parking spaces shall be provided. 1991 ADA Standards § 4.1.2(5); 2010 ADA Standards § 208. One in every eight accessible spaces, but not less than one, shall be served by an access aisle 96 in (2440 mm) wide minimum and shall be designated "van accessible." 1991 ADA Standards § 4.1.2(5)(b). For every six or fraction of six parking spaces, at least one shall be a van accessible parking space. 2010 ADA Standards § 208.2.4.
- 21. Under the ADA, the method and color of marking are to be addressed by State or local laws or regulations. See 36 C.F.R., Part 1191. Under the California Building Code ("CBC"), the parking space identification signs shall include the International Symbol of Accessibility. Parking identification signs shall be reflectorized

with a minimum area of 70 square inches. Additional language or an additional sign below the International Symbol of Accessibility shall state "Minimum Fine \$250." A parking space identification sign shall be permanently posted immediately adjacent and visible from each parking space, shall be located with its centerline a maximum of 12 inches from the centerline of the parking space and may be posted on a wall at the interior end of the parking space. See CBC § 11B-502.6, et seq.

- 22. Moreover, an additional sign shall be posted either in a conspicuous place at each entrance to an off-street parking facility or immediately adjacent to on-site accessible parking and visible from each parking space. The additional sign shall not be less than 17 inches wide by 22 inches high. The additional sign shall clearly state in letters with a minimum height of 1 inch the following: "Unauthorized vehicles parked in designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed away at the owner's expense..." See CBC § 11B-502.8, et seq.
- 23. Here, Defendants failed to provide any parking space designated for persons with disabilities. Defendants also failed to provide the parking space identification sign with the International Symbol of Accessibility. In addition, Defendants failed to provide the signs stating, "Minimum Fine \$250" and "Van Accessible." Moreover, Defendants failed to provide the additional sign with the specific language stating "Unauthorized vehicles parked in designated accessible spaces not displaying distinguishing placards or special license plates issued for persons with disabilities will be towed away at the owner's expense…"
- 24. For the parking spaces, access aisles shall be marked with a blue painted borderline around their perimeter. The area within the blue borderlines shall be marked with hatched lines a maximum of 36 inches (914 mm) on center in a color contrasting with that of the aisle surface, preferably blue or white. The words "NO PARKING" shall be painted on the surface within each access aisle in white letters a minimum of 12 inches

11B-502.3.3.25. Here, Defendants failed to provide a proper access aisle as there were no

(305 mm) in height and located to be visible from the adjacent vehicular way. CBC §

- 25. Here, Defendants failed to provide a proper access aisle as there were no "NO PARKING" marking and blue hatched lines painted on the parking surface. Moreover, Defendants failed to provide the access aisle with the minimum width of 96 inches.
- 26. The surface of each accessible car and van space shall have surface identification complying with either of the following options: The outline of a profile view of a wheelchair with occupant in white on a blue background a minimum 36" wide by 36" high (914 mm x 914 mm). The centerline of the profile view shall be a maximum of 6 inches (152 mm) from the centerline of the parking space, its sides parallel to the length of the parking space and its lower side or corner aligned with the end of the parking space length or by outlining or painting the parking space in blue and outlining on the ground in white or a suitable contrasting color a profile view of a wheel chair with occupant. See CBC § 11B-502.6.4, et seq.
- 27. Here, Defendants failed to paint the International Symbol of Accessibility on the surface as required.
- 28. A public accommodation shall maintain in operable working condition those features of facilities and equipment that are required to be readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities by the Act or this part. 28 C.F.R. 35.211(a).
- 29. By failing to maintain the facility to be readily accessible and usable by Plaintiff, Defendants are in violation of Plaintiff's rights under the ADA and its related regulations.
- 30. The Business has denied and continues to deny full and equal access to Plaintiff and to other people with disabilities. Plaintiff has been and will continue to be discriminated against due to the lack of accessible facilities, and therefore, seeks injunctive relief to alter facilities to make such facilities readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for relief and judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 1. For preliminary and permanent injunction directing Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disability Act;
- 2. Reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs of suit in this action; and
 - 3. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: April 29, 2024

SO. CAL. EQUAL ACCESS GROUP

By: _/s/ Jason J. Kim

Jason J. Kim, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff